

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:94

ANSWERED ON:22.11.2016

Pollution Index

Singh Shri Sunil Kumar

**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:**

- (a) the salient features of the National Air Quality Index (AQI) launched in the country;
- (b) the data compiled on the basis of the AQI in respect of metro cities indicating the category and likely health impacts;
- (c) the various efforts made/being made/ proposed to be made by the Government to reduce the rising air pollution in metro cities of the country; and
- (d) the outcome of the said efforts?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 94 due for reply on 22.11.2016 regarding "Pollution Index" by SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH, Hon"ble Member of Parliament

(a) The National Air Quality Index (AQI) is the web-based system designed to provide AQI on real time basis considering eight pollutants i.e. Sulphur Dioxide, Nitrogen Dioxide, Lead, Ozone, PM10, PM2.5, Carbon Monoxide and Ammonia for short term (upto 24 hourly) norms as prescribed in the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS-2009). It is an automated system that captures data from continuous monitoring stations without human intervention, and displays AQI based on running average values (e.g. AQI at 6 am on a day will incorporate data for 6 am on previous day to the current day). The AQI is being calculated on average of 24 hours for the criteria pollutants. There are six AQI categories, namely Good, Satisfactory, Moderately Polluted, Poor, Very Poor, and Severe. Each of these categories is decided based on ambient concentration values of air pollutants and their likely health impacts. At present, 32 cities are connected to the web-based system of National AQI.

The AQI values and corresponding ambient concentrations (health breakpoints) is enclosed at Annexure I.

(b) The average AQI values for the period of November, 2015 to October, 2016 for 32 cities is enclosed at Annexure II. The associated health impacts of AQI is enclosed at Annexure III.

(c) & (d) The major steps taken by Government to reduce the rising air pollution in metro cities of the country inter alia include notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards; formulation of environmental regulations / statutes; setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air quality; introduction of cleaner / alternate fuels like gaseous fuel (CNG, LPG etc.), ethanol blending; promotion of cleaner production processes; launching of National Air Quality index; universalization of BS-IV by 2017; leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards by 1st April, 2020; comprehensive amendments to various Waste Management Rules and notification of Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules; banning of burning of leaves, biomass, municipal solid waste; promotion of public transport and network of metro, e-rickshaws, promotion of car pooling, Pollution Under Control Certificate, lane discipline, vehicle maintenance; regular co-ordination meetings at official and ministerial level with Delhi and other State Governments within the NCR; issuance of directions under Section 18(1)(b) of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; installation of on-line continuous (24x7) monitoring devices by major industries; collection of Environmental Protection Charge on more than 2000 CC diesel vehicles; and ban on bursting of sound emitting crackers between 10 PM to 6 AM etc.

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